

unguarded moment an amendment may be passed that will undo the work of years." And there are forty-four legislatures to watch!

Reservations, to be effective, must be patrolled by wardens, and whether the refuges are established by the Federal Government or are held under leases by the Association, the necessary wardens have to be supplied by the Association. Hence with the setting aside of each new reservation the responsibilities and expenses of the Association are proportionately increased. "How rapidly this work may be extended," says Mr. Dutcher, "depends entirely upon the public itself. If this appeal falls upon unwilling ears and hearts, our progress will be slow, but if, on the other hand, our plans and suggestions meet with the sympathy and support they deserve, progress will be very rapid." The Secretary's report states that "nine additional reservations have been formed during the past year by President Roosevelt upon the recommendation of President Dutcher"; and that, in all, "there are now twenty-three National Reservations under the care of this Association."

The reports of field agents include a report by Edward Howe Forbush for New England, and by William B. Finley for Oregon and the Northwest Coast region. Mr. Finley gives a detailed account of his and Mr. Bohlman's exploration of the bird life of the lakes of southern Oregon, which is not only important from the view point of bird protection but is of special interest as a sort of census of the water bird colonies of the extensive lakes and marshes of southern Oregon and northern California. Here the plume hunters have remained at work continually, killing thousands of Grebes and other birds. "It is," says Mr. Finley, "a difficult matter to stop shooting in such a vast area that is so profitable to the plume hunter, but we expect to succeed. There are at present six indictments against plume hunters filed in the District Attorney's office at Burns, for shooting Grebes on Malheur Lake." He adds: "To show how little observance has been given to the game laws in southeastern Oregon, it has been the custom for parties to go down to Malheur Lake in the fall when Swan, Snow Geese and other birds are migrating, and kill these birds merely for the feathers, which are sold at so much per pound."

Such facts indicate the necessity for a strong central organization of bird protectors, like the National Association, and how essential it is that greatly increased funds be made available for its work.—J. A. A.

Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey for 1908.¹—Dr Merriam's report summarizes briefly the work of the Bureau of Biological Survey for the year ending June 30, 1908. This includes: "(1) Investigation of the economic relations of birds and mammals to agriculture; (2) investigations concerning the geographic distribution of animals and plants with reference to the determination of the life and crop belts of the country; (3) supervision of matters relating to game preservation and protection, and the importation of foreign birds and mammals." Among

¹ From Annual Reports of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1908. Pp. 22.

the many important topics recapitulated may be cited the relation of birds to the cotton boll weevil; California birds in relation to the fruit industry; food of wild ducks; food of woodpeckers; mosquito-eating birds; birds in relation to the codling moth; the economic relations of the Grosbeaks; spread of the English Sparrow in southern California; means of attracting birds; geographic distribution; game protection, etc. Respecting the latter we quote a single paragraph: "Difficult problems attach also to the task of preserving the non-game birds of the country. Capture of native birds for millinery purposes and for the cage-bird market is under fairly good control; but questions that press constantly for settlement arise through absorption of breeding haunts to meet the needs of spreading civilization, the great increase in the number of persons who shoot birds, and other agencies of depletion resulting from changed conditions." The measures taken to meet these problems are briefly recounted, as well as those to prevent the importation of undesirable birds and mammals. An attempt is now being made to prevent the spread of the English Sparrow into southern California; also to ascertain the present distribution of the Starling in this country, with a view "to devising means to check further increase of its range and to eradicate the pest, as far as possible, in the territory now occupied." It is of interest to here further note that "During the year the office of Geographic Distribution has made considerable advance in mapping the distribution of American birds and mammals, and in getting its accumulated data into shape for convenient reference and use." Meanwhile the gathering of such information on a broad scale continues, while reports on sections already surveyed are being prepared for publication.—J. A. A.

Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook of Birds of the Western United States.'¹—The third edition of Mrs. Bailey's 'Handbook' differs from the former editions through the correction of the additional errors discovered, the substitution of many drawings of bird-skins in place of photographs, and a revision of the text under the genus *Astragalinus* to bring it into accord with the rulings of the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature. The work is thus not materially changed, this new edition being issued to meet the continued demand for this excellent handbook.—J. A. A.

Richmond's List of Generic Terms proposed for Birds during 1901-1905.²

¹ Handbook of Birds of the Western United States including the Great Plains, Great Basin, Pacific Slope, and Lower Rio Grande Valley | By Florence Merriam Bailey | With thirty-three full-page plates by Louis Agassiz Fuertes, and over six hundred cuts in the text | Third edition, revised | [Emblem] Boston and New York | Houghton Mifflin Company | The Riverside Press Cambridge.—12mo., pp. xc + 514. \$3.50, net; postpaid, \$3.69.

² Generic Names applied to Birds during the years 1901 to 1905, inclusive, with further Additions to Waterhouse's "Index Generum Avium." By Charles W. Richmond, Assistant Curator, Division of Birds, U. S. National Museum. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXXV, pp. 583-655. Published Dec. 16, 1908.